



FloorPrep

Legislative Digest

Thursday, June 8, 2000

J.C. Watts, Jr.
Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 10:00 a.m. for Legislative Business
(Journal vote at 10:00 a.m. —followed by
106th Congress Photo at 10:15 a.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:
**H.R. 4577—FY 2001 Departments of Labor, HHS, and
Education Appropriations Act**

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Bills Considered Pursuant to a Rule

H.R. 4577—FY 2001 Labor/Health & Human Services/Education Appropriations

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 4577 as its first order of business today. On Tuesday, June 6, 2000, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule provides that amendments printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and waives clause 2 of rule XXI (prohibiting unauthorized or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill) against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule also provides that amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report will be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, waives all points of order against the amendment, cannot be amended, and will not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. It permits the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reducing voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, so long as it follows a

regular 15-minute vote and to accord priority to Members who have pre-printed their amendments in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 4577 appropriates \$97.2 billion in discretionary budget authority—\$12.3 billion more than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$8.927 billion less than the president’s request—for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS), Education, and a wide range of related agencies. Including mandatory spending (the amount over which the Appropriations Committee does not have jurisdiction) and advances, the bill provides \$339.5 billion, \$23.8 billion more than last year and \$8.93 billion less than the president’s request.

Summary of Major Titles of H.R. 4577

Department of Labor. For the Department of Labor (DOL), the bill appropriates \$10.7 billion in discretionary budget authority for a number of employment-related programs, including unemployment insurance, worker safety, and job training. This amount is \$526 million less than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$1.703 billion less than the president’s request. Including mandatory spending and trust funds, total funding for the Labor Department is \$12.6 billion. Specific appropriations for the Labor Department include:

- * \$5.015 billion to carry out provisions of the Workforce Investment, \$421 million less than enacted funding for FY 2000;
- * \$381.6 million for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA; same as last year);
- * \$440 million (\$6.1 million more than last year) for the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and
- * \$1.028 billion for the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund, \$14 million more than enacted funding for FY 2001.

Department of Health & Human Services. The largest amount appropriated in the bill funds programs of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The bill provides about \$260 billion for HHS, nearly 85 percent of which supports mandatory entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and family support services. The remainder of HHS funding (\$43.9 billion, \$2.2 billion more than last year and \$1.2 billion less than the president’s request) supports the nation’s primary health and welfare discretionary initiatives, including programs such as:

- * the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which receives \$20.5 billion (\$2.8 billion more than enacted funding for FY 2000);
- * the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which receives \$3.29 billion (\$326 million more than last year); and
- * the Health Resources and Services Administration, which receives \$4.8 billion (\$181.9 million more than enacted funding for FY 2000). This account includes \$1.725 billion for Ryan White AIDS programs.

Department of Education. Often the most contentious portion of the Labor/HHS/Education bill is funding for the Department of Education, for which the measure provides a total of \$39.6 billion for FY 2001, \$1.65 billion more than last year and \$2.9 billion less than the president's request. Specific appropriations include:

- * \$6.6 billion for special education programs (\$514 million more than last year);
- * \$8.4 billion for the Pell grant program (\$716.3 million more than funding enacted for FY 2000)
- * \$8.8 billion for education for the disadvantaged (\$116 million more than last year);
- * \$985 million for Impact Aid (\$78.5 million more than funding enacted for FY 2000); and
- * \$406 million for bilingual and immigrant education (the same as last year).

In addition, the measure raises the maximum Pell Grant award to \$3,500, \$200 more than in FY 2000, the same as the president's request.

Related Agencies. Finally, H.R. 4577 appropriates a total of \$40.2 billion for related agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). This amount is \$1.9 billion more than funding enacted for FY 2000 and \$282 million less than the president's request. Specific appropriations include:

- * \$38.7 billion for the Social Security Administration, \$1.9 billion more than last year and \$163 million less than the president's request;
- * \$365 million—\$15 million more than last year and equal to the president's request—for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and
- * \$150 million for the dual benefits payments account of the Railroad Retirement Board, \$13.3 million less than funding enacted in FY 2000 and equal to the president's request.

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 4577 will result in discretionary outlays of \$97.2 billion in FY 2001.

Views: The Republican Leadership supports passage of the bill. The Administration vigorously opposes the bill as reported and recommends that if it were sent to the president in its current form, the president would veto the bill. It also strongly opposes the provision of the bill prohibiting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from finalizing its standard on ergonomics.

Amendments— At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments:

Mr. Porter will offer an amendment (Part A of the Rules Committee Report) to strike the changes in the Continuing Disability Reviews and reduces funding for Pell Grants for \$48 million, but does not reduce the maximum Pell Grant payment.

Ms. Wilson will offer an amendment (Part B of the Rules Committee Report, debatable for 10 minutes), which appropriates \$25 million for the 21st Century Teacher Scholarships Act, which addresses the national problem of teacher shortage, if it is enacted into law. The amendment reduces funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) by \$25 million as an offset.

Mr. Andrews may offer an amendment to prohibit the use of Department of Education funds for prohibiting a state vocational rehabilitation agency from counting a blind or visually-impaired person as successfully rehabilitated if the person is placed in a noncompetitive or nonintegrated employment setting at the federal minimum wage or higher. **Staff Contact: x5-6501**

Mr. Gary Miller may offer an amendment to reduce “Education technology: ready to learn television” funding, part of the Education Reform program, by \$16,000,000 and increasing Special Education grants to States (IDEA) by \$16,000,000. **Staff Contact: Deandra Brooks, x5-3201**

Mr. Paul may offer an amendment to prohibit the use of funds to promulgate or adopt the use of a national medical identification system. **Staff Contact: x5-2831**

Mr. Ryan may offer an amendment to reduce 21st Century Community Learning Centers, part of the Education Reform program, by \$300,000,000 and increasing Special Education grants to States (IDEA) by \$300,000,000. **Staff Contact: Scott Shortenhaus, x5-3031.**

Mr. Oxley may offer an amendment earmarking \$10 million of the \$365 million appropriated for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting (CPB) to transition to digital broadcasting of its programming. The bill, as reported, increased CPB’s appropriations for FY 2001 by \$15 million over last year’s level. The amendment designates \$10 million of that increase to digital conversion. **Staff Contact: Bob Foster, x5-2676.**

Messrs. Oxley and Shadegg may offer an amendment to reduce the level of appropriations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting by one percent or \$3.65 million (1% of \$365 million). **Staff Contact: Bob Foster, x5-2676**

Mr. Oxley may offer an amendment stating that no funds appropriated for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting may be used to pay salaries, wages or other compensation of any officer or employee of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Public Broadcasting Service, or the National Public Radio that exceeds the current annual rate of pay for Members of Congress. **Staff Contact: Bob Foster, x5-2676**

Mr. Vitter may offer an amendment to increase IDEA funding by \$1.42 billion by reducing each education account that received an increase by the exact amount of the increase. Specifically, the amendment would decrease Title 1 by \$116 million, Impact Aid by \$78.5 million, School Improvement

Programs by \$158.5 million, Indian Education by \$30.8 million, American Printing House for the Blind \$900,000, National Institute for the Deaf \$5.8 million, Galludet University by \$3.4 million, Vocational & Adult Education by \$36.8 million, Student Financial Assistance by \$823.3, Higher Education by \$158.5 million, and Howard University \$7 million. These offsets will allow total IDEA funding to reach \$2 billion, the amount called for in the FY 2001 budget resolution. **Staff Contact: D.J. O'Brien, x5-3015**

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment to increase funding for the Federal capital contributions to the Perkins Loan program by \$40 million, to a total of \$140 million, while decreasing program administration for the Department of Education as an offset. **Staff Contact: Dan O'Grady, x5-4115**

Mr. Sanders may offer an amendment to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program by \$300 million, from \$1.1 billion to \$1.4 billion, for FY 2002. As an advanced appropriation, this spending does not require an offset. **Staff Contact: Warren Gunnels, x5-4115**

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